

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully submit that no prohibited new matter has been introduced by this Preliminary Amendment. Support for claims 26, 30, 31, 33, 34, 38-40, 44, 45, 47 and 48 may be found at the very least at page 3, fourth paragraph, page 35, first paragraph, and page 59, first full paragraph. Support for claims 27 and 41 may be found in original claims 3 and 4. Support for claims 28 and 42 may be found at page 37, line 29, and page 110, second full paragraph. Support for claims 35 and 49 may be found at page 63, second full paragraph. Support for claims 36, 37, 50 and 51 may be found at pages 74-75.

Support for claims 29, 32, 43 and 46 may be found in U.S. Patent 5,143,854 (Pirrung *et al.*), which is discussed and incorporated by reference into the subject application at numerous positions, for instance on page 14, last full paragraph, and at page 34, at lines 5-6 and 11-13 (see Pirrung, Section II, "General"). The disclosure from Pirrung corresponding to claims 29, 32, 43 and 46 has been incorporated into the specification by amendment above.

For example, at column 7, lines 49-57, the '854 patent recites:

Substrate: A material having a rigid or semi-rigid surface. In many embodiments, at least one surface of the substrate will be substantially flat, although in some embodiments it may be desirable to physically separate synthesis regions for different polymers with, for example, wells, raised regions, etched trenches, or the like. According to other embodiments, small beads may be provided on the surface which may be released upon completion of the synthesis.

Further, at column 9, lines 61-64, the '854 patent recites:

The number of monomers could cover a wide variety of values, but in a preferred embodiment they will range from 2 to 100.

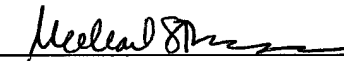
Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration of the pending claims and early indication of its allowability. Should the Examiner find that an interview would expedite prosecution of the present application, she is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at his/her convenience.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

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